

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claim 1 is under examination. Claims 2-35 were cancelled in a previous response (filed on August 21, 2003). Claims 36-43 are withdrawn from consideration. It is understood that claims 36-43, drawn to the non-elected invention, will remain pending, albeit withdrawn from consideration on the merits at this time. If the examined claim of the Group I invention is deemed to be allowable, rejoinder of the remaining claims (36-43) in accordance with the decision in *In re Ochiai* is respectfully requested; since the remaining claims (36-43) are limited to the use of the biopolymer marker of claim 1 (the examined claim of the elected Group I invention).

Claims 1 and 36-43 remain pending in the instant application.

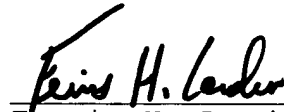
Response to Outstanding Rejections

The instant application is being revived for purposes of co-pendency only.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner will now find the claims of the application allowable. Favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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